

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: BERLIN

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NO: 234, AUGUST 17, 10 PM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 234, BONN PRIORITY 2007, INFORMATION LONDON 141, MOSCOW 136, PARIS 147, POLAD USAREUR 131.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSER AND MCGUIRE.

REFERENCE: BERLIN'S 208 DEPARTMENT, 181 BONN; BERLIN'S A-62 DEPARTMENT, A-46 BONN.

NUMBER OF TTDS ISSUED BY ALLIED TRAVEL OFFICE HAS FALLEN OFF NOS CONTINUALLY SINCE BEGINNING OF WEEK AND DURING WEEK OFFICIAL ARMY GDR AGENCIES HAVE NOT SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO APPLY FOR OR NAVY PICK UP TTDS. SO FAR THIS WEEK 82 TTDS ISSUED, OF WHICH 73 AIR FOR PRIVATE AND 8 FOR NON-GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL. ONLY POSSIBLY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO CLAIM TTD AT ATO SINCE BEGINNING OF WEEK WAS TRAVEL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE WISHING TO VISIT ENGLAND TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT OF EAST GERMAN CRUISE SHIP IN SEPTEMBER (SEE REF AIRGRAM).

(2) EAST GERMANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENTER WEST BERLIN TO OBTAIN TTDS BY SHOWING GDR PASSPORTS WITH GDR EXIT PERMITS TO VOPOS AT SEVERAL CROSSING POINTS, BUT ATO HAS SEEN NO EXIT PERMITS ISSUED AFTER AUG 13. SO FAR ATO HAS RECEIVED 6 LETTERS STATING THAT PEOPLE WERE CANCELLING TRIPS BECAUSE THEY WERE DENIED EXIT PERMITS. THIS FAR EXCEEDS USUAL NUMBER OF LETTERS OF THIS KIND BUT IS OF COURSE NOT INDICATIVE OF TOTAL EXIT PERMIT DENIALS SINCE MOST PEOPLE DO NOT WRITE TO ATO WHEN THESE VISAS ARE UNUSED.

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-2- 234, AUGUST 17, 10 PM FROM BERLIN

NO EAST GERMAN HAS COME TO ATO IN PERSON TO MAKE NEW APPLICATION SINCE AUG 13. DAILY AVERAGE OF MAIL APPLICATIONS HAS DROPPED FROM 40 TO 1.

COMMENT: SLOWDOWN IN ATO ACTIVITY MAY BE TEMPORARY RESULT OF GDR EFFORTS TO ADJUST TRAVEL REGULATIONS TO NEW SITUATION. THERE IS STILL BACKLOG OF ABOUT 500 APPLICATIONS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND 2,000 FOR NON-OFFICIAL TRAVEL. SOME OF UPCOMING EVENTS TO WHICH GDR WISHES TO SEND DELEGATES ARE TOOL-MAKING MACHINE EXHIBITION AT BRUSSELS, TEXTILE SHOW IN OSLO, AND SEVERAL SPORTING EVENTS. BERLINER ENSEMBLE HAS APPLIED FOR 120 TTDS TO PERFORM IN VENICE IN SEPT. WE PRESUME EAST GERMANS WILL WISH TO SEND DELEGATES TO THESE AND OTHER EVENTS AND WILL THUS BE RETURNING TO ATO. FURTHERMORE, HEAVY SEASON FOR COMMERCIAL TRAVEL NOW STARTING.

SINCE IN CURRENT SITUATION EAST GERMAN COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS OR OTHER OFFICIAL TRAVELERS MAY WISH TO USE OLD TTDS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO ELUDE CONTROLS, WE RECOMMEND AS PART OF TTD RESTRICTIONS THAT NATO NATIONS BE REQUESTED NOT TO ISSUE VISAS TO GDR OFFICIAL TRAVELERS IF THEY HAVE TTD ISSUED BEFORE AUG 13.

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